

**MINUTES OF THE  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE**  
Tuesday, November 23, 2004 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W110 House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Thomas V. Hatch, Senate Chair  
Rep. Demar "Bud" Bowman, House Chair  
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins  
Rep. Douglas C. Aagard  
Rep. Eli H. Anderson  
Rep. James R. Gowans  
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Mike Dmitrich  
Sen. Ed P. Mayne  
Rep. Brad King  
Rep. R. Curt Webb

**Staff present:**

Mr. Joseph T. Wade, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Susan Allred, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Joy L. Miller, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present and a copy of related materials can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov) or by contacting the committee secretary, Joy Miller, at 538-1032. A recording of the meeting may also be available from the committee secretary.

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Hatch called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Sen. Dmitrich was excused from the meeting.

**MOTION:** Rep. Anderson moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2004 meeting with the correction that Rep. King was excused from the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Report from Governor's Rural Partnership Board**

Mr. Jeff Packer, Chairman, Board (Governor's Rural Partnership Board), distributed "Governor's Rural Partnership Board Recommendations." He said the recommendations are only a starting point and not intended to be comprehensive. The recommendations demonstrate that rural Utahns need a voice that can be effective and efficient when it comes to implementation of economic development issues in the state.

Mr. Ed Meyers, Director, Office of Rural Development, Division of Business and Economic Development, DCED (Department of Community and Economic Development), reviewed the recommendations with the Committee. The first recommendation was to ask the Legislature to establish an interim study group to address the health insurance crisis in rural Utah. He stated that the Board supports the DCED budget request for an annual appropriation of \$100,000 to sustain the Utah Smart Site Program's efforts to create technology-based jobs in rural Utah. The Board also requested that the Legislature designate Utah State University to assume the lead role in identifying rural economic "clusters" crossing county, regional, and on occasion, state lines.

Mr. Fred Jaeger, Rural Transition Team, spoke in support of the Smart Site Program.

Mr. Wes Curtis, State Planning Coordinator, stressed the need to deal with problems and issues that surround public lands. He noted that a statewide meeting of local officials has been scheduled for December 20th at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditorium of the State Office Building. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss coordination and cooperation on rural land use, natural resources, public land use, and energy

policy. He urged members of the Committee to attend the meeting.

### **3. Office of Rural Development Website**

Mr. Meyers distributed the news release "Rural.utah.gov Helps Rural Businesses." He indicated that the website includes a "Rural Resource Center" to help businesses obtain specific information about rural Utah business resources. The site offers a "Help Desk" through which businesses can ask questions and receive a personal response by email.

**MOTION:** Rep. Gowans moved to adopt the following four recommendations of the Board: 1) recommend that the Legislature establish an interim study group to address the health insurance crisis in rural Utah, 2) support DCED's budget request for an annual appropriation of \$100,000 to sustain the Utah Smart Site Program, 3) recommend as a committee bill the "Funding for Tourism" legislation sponsored by Sen. Jenkins, and 4) request that Utah State University be designated as the lead agency in identifying rural economic "clusters" and convening entities to develop strategies. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Anderson was absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Jenkins moved to request that Utah State University provide information to the Committee regarding the economic viability of fish and game animals for southern Utah. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Anderson was absent for the vote.

After additional discussion, the Committee agreed to follow up with the Board's recommendation of asking the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food to explore the creation of a multi-institutional Agribusiness Innovation Center.

### **4. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Gowans moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hatch adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.